

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01
TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 AF-10
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USMTN

STR FOR ACTION
STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: MTN: GROUP AGRICULTURE REVIEW OF DRAFT
- STANDARDS CODE

REF: A) 77 GENEVA 2536; B) GENEVA 8470; C) GENEVA 8525;
- D) STATE 145953; E) 77 GENEVA 11557; F) GENEVA 7052

1. U.S. MTN DEL VIEWS THE BASIC OBJECTIVE FOR SUBJECT MEETING IS TO RESUME, AFTER A YEAR'S HIATUS, SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY CLEAR CONSENSUS WILL BE EMERGING FROM THE UPCOMING MEETING, EVEN THOUGH THERE SEEMS TO BE A WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT THE CODE SHOULD APPLY TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THERE ARE,
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HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND PROPOSALS OUTSTANDING IN THE DRAFT CODE WHICH WOULD HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON AGRICULTURAL COVERAGE SUCH AS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND CERTIFICATION PROVISIONS. THUS, SOME DELS HESITATE TO MAKE FINAL DECISION UNTIL A MORE COMPLETE VERSION OF CODE IS DEVELOPED. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF POINTS WERE RAISED AT THE MARCH 1977 GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING

WITH RESPECT TO PROVISIONS IN CODE AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED UNDER THE CODE TO ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED WITH STANDARDIZATION WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED. THESE ISSUES APPEAR IN GATT DOCUMENTS MTN/AG/W/21 AND MTN/AG/W/24. THESE DOCUMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR THE FIRST TIME AND WILL HELP REVEAL ANY SUBSTANTIVE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CODE APPLICATION TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

2. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY POSITIONS: THE BASIC POSITIONS OF COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WERE REVEALED AT THE INITIAL GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING ON THIS TOPIC IN MARCH 1977 REPORTED IN REF (A). WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE A BILATERAL SESSION WITH THE EC, WHO ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO HAVE THIS GROUP MEETING, IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN IF THEY HAVE ANY PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE EC MAY BE WILLING TO COME ALONG ON THIS SUBJECT IN LIGHT OF THE FINAL PROVISIONS ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. AUSTRALIA STILL FAVORS COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE BY THE CODE BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINING A RESERVATION WITH RESPECT TO CODE'S APPLICABILITY TO QUARANTINE SYSTEMS. AUSTRALIAN GENEVA DEL IS SEEKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THESE WILL BE RECEIVED IN TIME FOR MONDAY'S MEETINGS. CANADA'S POSITION IS THAT, BROADLY SPEAKING, THEY SEE "NO REASON WHY CODE SHOULD NOT APPLY TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS." CANADIAN DEL IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM OTTAWA OF POTENTIAL PROBLEM WHEN FOOD AND DRUG TECHNICAL REGULATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN CRIMINAL CODE. JAPAN HAS RAISED A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE RECORDED IN DOCUMENT MTN/AG/W/24. THE NORDICS HAVE ALSO RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES SUCH AS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CODE MECHANISM TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE NORDICS HAVE SPECULATED THAT POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PROCESS AND PRODUCTION METHODS WOULD BE THE "KISS OF DEATH" WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL COVERAGE AS REPORTED IN REF E. NEW ZEALAND ALSO FAVORS THE CODE'S COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS AND HAS OVERCOME ITS INITIAL RESERVATIONS VIS-A-VIS CODE'S COVERAGE OF QUARANTINE SYSTEMS. NEW ZEALAND WOULD SUPPORT A U.S. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE COVERAGE OF PROCESS AND PRODUCTION METHODS IN THE CODE'S TEXT. SWITZERLAND HAS MENTIONED IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS APPROACHED DISCUSSIONS

ON THIS DRAFT CODE WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD
APPLY TO AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS.

3. LDC'S HAVE GENERALLY FAVORED THE CODE'S COVERAGE
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. BRAZIL REITERATED ITS
INTEREST AT THE MAY INFORMAL STANDARDS MEETINGS (REF B).
ARGENTINA BELIEVES THE CODE IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY
STRINGENT TO ADDRESS ITS CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY IN THE
MEAT AREA (REF F).

4. DRAFTED BY WALLAR. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: ETRD, MTN
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